

ON THE IDENTITY OF KIRSANNA

BY

F. TRACY HUBBARD

In September 1930 Dr. C. S. Coon of the Peabody Museum submitted specimens of seed for identification under the name of Kirsanna. These had been collected for him in Morocco by Gordon Browne in the Valley of the Iherrushen where they are grown by the Tribe of Gzennaya, Rif.

The following notes of economic interest in regard to this seed were furnished by Dr. Coon. In the Rif the seeds are used for making bread after they have been thoroughly soaked to extract the poisonous element which they contain. They are placed in flat wicker baskets and weighted down in streams and allowed to remain until the poisonous element is judged to be removed. In the Rif the Berber vernacular name of the seed is Shasanna and the Arabic name is Kirsanna. Dr. Coon further states that the name of the seed in Armenia is Kushna and that it is used there for feeding cattle after the poisonous element has been removed by soaking.

After several unsuccessful attempts the seed was finally grown to maturity at the Botanical Garden and proves to be *Vicia Ervilia* (L.) Willd.